



Hunting

Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 500 national wildlife refuges located throughout the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of wildlife, native species in particular. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat and provide recreational opportunities.

Regulations

Public hunting for deer, feral hogs, and turkey will be allowed on several thousand acres of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. Areas closed to hunting will be designated on maps and marked with signs and/or barracades.

Hunting on the refuge will be allowed only with a Balcones Canyonlands NWR hunt special use permit and in accordance with refuge hunting regulations. All hunters will be assigned areas to hunt. Hunters are free to move around in assigned areas. A person must be at least 12 years old to participate in this hunt program.

In addition to federal regulations, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department laws and regulations are adopted and in effect unless they have been further restricted by federal law or regulations.

Hunters must check in their game at designated check stations on the day the game was killed, and before leaving the refuge.

No person shall unreasonably disturb or annoy other persons on the refuge. No audio equipment, such as radios or other noise making devices, may be used in such a manner that may disturb others in the vicinity.

Licenses, permits, all hunting equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by federal or state officers.

No baiting or feeding of wildlife is allowed on the refuge. No camping is allowed on the refuge.

Portable hunting stands will be allowed. They may be set up during scouting week, but must be removed when a hunter’s permit expires. The refuge is not responsible for theft of hunting stand(s). Driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects into trees or hunting from trees in which metal objects have been driven is prohibited.

Antlerless deer, feral hogs, and bearded turkeys are the only legal game during the General Hunt. (Refer to Texas Parks and Wildlife *Outdoor Annual* under “County Listings’ for bag limits.) Bearded turkey, feral hogs and any deer are legal to take during the Youth hunt season. (Refer to Texas Parks and Wildlife *Outdoor Annual* under “County Listings’ for bag limits.)

Legal weapons for hunting on the refuge are concurrent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department rules and regulations. Dogs may not be used for scouting or hunting.

Safety

All hunters, ages 12-17, on the refuge must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters.

All hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist. All hunters must wear a hunter orange hat or cap.

Fires, target practice, and possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting on the refuge is prohibited.

Hunters should not shoot at a target that is not *completely* identified.

Hunting is not permitted within 50 yards of a road open to vehicular travel or 200 yards of a building.

Hunter access will be allowed on improved roads only. Hunters are encouraged to drive with caution on access roads, since many access roads can be muddy, eroded, graveled, or run through creeks and streams. Please do not block gates or roads.

ATV users must be in compliance with state regulations for operating ATVs on public lands.

Public Access

Firearms may not be brought into the refuge while scouting. A valid hunt permit will be required to enter designated hunt areas for scouting and hunting. When you arrive at your unit, the gate will be closed, but unlocked. Please keep the gate closed after entering.

The refuge is open during daylight hours for scouting November 3-9, November 16, November 30, and December 7.

When scouting, proceed directly to your designated hunt unit. Checking in at a check station is not required for scouting.

Hunters must first report to a check station *each day* before hunting and when finished hunting. Check stations open at 5:00 am.

The refuge manager may close all or part of the refuge—including roads—without notice to safeguard refuge resources or for safety reasons.

Permit Process

Hunt permits are non-transferable and are required of all hunters and adults (21 years old or older) supervising youth hunters.

A permit fee of \$40 is required for the general gun hunt. Permits for the youth hunt are free (ages 12-16). Permit applications can be obtained by mail (call or write to the address below) or at the refuge office. Youth hunters who do not get a free youth permit may apply for the general gun hunt (\$40 fee required for a hunt permit).

Hunt applications must be returned to the refuge office by 12:00 noon on August 24, 2001.

A random public drawing will be held in September to determine who will get hunt permits. Hunt permits will be valid for two consecutive days of hunting during the hunting season (see below). Only youth hunters (ages 12-16) may hunt during November 10-11, 2001.

2001 Hunt Seasons

Youth	November 10-11
General	November 17-18 November 1-2 December 8-9

For Additional Information Contact:

Refuge Manager
Balcones Canyonlands NWR
Compass Bank Building
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 201
Austin, Texas 78758
512/339-9432
512/339-9453 Fax